

litis, and pelvic peritonitis are treated as different manifestations of a single disease, or as the same disease attacking in its progress the different anatomical portions of the female pelvis. The causation of these varied manifestations is septic or specific infection. It is from this premise that the author deduces his subsequent conclusions. The pathology of this disease is considered at some length. The treatment offers many valuable suggestions, and will be read with interest.

The succeeding chapters treat of ectopic gestation, diseases of the ovaries and tubes, and diseases of the bladder, and the book is concluded by a chapter on after-treatment in gynæcological operations. This chapter proves a novel and interesting feature. It is full of suggestions, and will be found a valuable aid to those who desire information on this subject. It deals with a subject which has heretofore received too little consideration. It puts into permanent form a mass of knowledge which for a long time has remained traditional for the want of some one to interpret. We unhesitatingly recommend this book to those who wish to be in touch with the most recent gynæcological thought. There will be found little that is extraneous, and much that is valuable. The style in general is clear and concise, the matter is fully up to date. As a thoroughly practical book it cannot be too highly commended.

WILLIAM FRANCIS CAMPBELL.

SYPHILIS IN THE INNOCENT (SYPHILIS INSONTIVUM), Clinically and Historically Considered, with a Plan for the Legal Control of the Disease. By L. DUNCAN BULKLEY, A.M., M.D. Pp. 416; cloth, 8vo. Bailey & Fairchild, 29 Park Row, New York, 1894.

This is the essay to which, in 1891, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia awarded the Alvaregna prize for the best memoir on any medical subject. The book well merits the honor thus conferred, for the arrangement is excellent, the classification is detailed, logical and consistently followed, the subject matter is valuable and clearly presented, and the conclusions are of great practical importance.

“Syphilis is not essentially a venereal disease. It has been too frequently regarded as being only such, and consequently some of its important features have been overlooked. Many able writers describe well its clinical history, pathology, and treatment, as also its connection with prostitution ; but the element of its non-venereal character, in many instances, has been relatively little considered, and no full presentation of the subject has ever been made. In the present essay the attempt is made to consider only this single aspect of the malady,—namely, its innocent occurrence, and the modes of infection whereby it is innocently acquired, by means wholly unconnected with the venereal act.”

Owing to the vast extent of the subject even this field of investigation has been subdivided ; hereditary syphilis and syphilis acquired in the ordinary relations of married life have been omitted.

The amount of material which the author has collected for his work is enormous. As a result of his own years of experience he gives clinical reports of 116 cases of extragenital chancres, a greater number than has ever been reported by any observer in the United States. One table of 7000 cases of chancres, with their location, is given ; another table of 9000 extragenital chancres has also been collected. Still another table, as complete as possible, gives the epidemics of syphilis which have occurred from the year 1577 to the present time ; this contains data relating to over 100 epidemics, great and small, affecting over 3000 victims, in addition to the many instances where no definite statistics were given. In all cases the original reports have been consulted wherever this was possible ; this alone necessitated the study of the medical literature of the entire civilized world. The analytical bibliography in which the results of this study are given fills 150 pages, and refers to cases reported by 1500 writers ; a synopsis is also given in which all these are analyzed. A more complete or more systematic treatment of a subject would be difficult to imagine.

The classification which is adopted developed from the study of the records themselves. This practical basis shows that syphilis

insontium is transmitted by many modes of infection, but that all of these may be grouped under three main heads: (1) In connection with household and industrial life; (2) in the care of children; (3) in professional pursuits. The two groups first mentioned are, of course, important, but from the stand-point of the physician himself the third group of cases attracts especial attention.

In the third group, three subclasses are easily differentiated: (1) Where the operator is the victim; (2) where the operator is the syphilitic; and (3) where the operator is the medium of syphilitic infection. The numerous cases reported, showing the many ways in which physicians are infected in the course of professional duty, are both sad and instructive. Not less so are those instances—not a few in number—where the physician or midwife has been the means of infecting persons under their care with the repulsive disease. “The subject of the conveyance of syphilis by vaccination is a very large one, and could alone fill many books with the data which have been recorded in connection therewith.” Circumcision, confinement cases, and various operations, where surgically unclean instruments have been used, have all added their scores of victims to swell the list of unfortunates. These cases must not be attributed to ignorance alone. When it is remembered that it is a common practice in many dispensaries to class venereal diseases with surgical cases, and to treat both classes of patients in the same room, and often with the same instruments and hands with no attempt at immediate sterilization, the wonder is that cases of syphilitic infection, as a result of such inexcusable carelessness, are not more frequent. One noted ear specialist alone is held responsible for sixty cases of syphilitic inoculation due to the use of a dirty Eustachian catheter. In many cases, however, no amount of human wisdom could possibly have foreseen, nor could any reasonable amount of care have prevented, the sad events recounted.

The book closes with an excellent chapter upon prophylaxis, hygiene, and medico-legal considerations. Dr. Bulkley makes a strong plea that the disease shall be placed in the same category as other contagious diseases, and be kept under rigid legal control. “The

disease is undoubtedly upon the increase, owing to the utter lack of sanitary control over the greater part of the world. More deaths are ultimately caused by syphilis than by small-pox, while the injury to health and interference with life-work are much greater in the former than in the latter. The time has come to place it under the control of proper health officers, and to make it *quite as criminal to transmit syphilis wittingly* as it is to communicate small-pox, scarlatina, or diphtheria. Society has the same right as in other contagious disease to protect itself by scientific treatment and by legal penalties." These are Dr. Bulkley's views, and the entire chapter is heartily to be commended.

H. P. DE FOREST.

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Remittances for Subscriptions and Advertising and all business communications should be addressed to the

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS,  
716 Filbert Street,  
Philadelphia, Pa.